

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 00707 290855Z

13-12

ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8374

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW, NZ

SUBJECT: LOCAL PRESS HINTS AT CLOSER ROC/NEW ZEALAND

UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS

1. TWO RECENT ARTICLES SUGGEST THAT THE ROC IS BEGINNING TO EMPHASIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING ROC/NEW ZEALAND RELATIONS. A JANUARY 28 CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY DISPATCH ENTITLED "NEW ZEALAND WELCOMES HAVING INCREASED TIES WITH THE ROC" REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER MULDOON SAID "IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE CNA" THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE NOT REQUISITE TO COUNTRIES HAVING SUBSTANTIAL TIES. SPEAKING OF THE POSSIBILITIES OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN WELLINGTON AND TAIPEI, MULDOON REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IN TERMS OF TRADE NEW ZEALAND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE DEALINGS WITH TAIWAN.

2. A JANUARY 23 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ARTICLE ENTITLED "AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND: GROWING TRADE, WARMING TIES" QUOTED THE GENERAL MANAGER OF TRADE SPAN (NZ) FAR EASTERN DIVISION PETER B. MCINNES AS SAYING THAT "NEW ZEALAND IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO PROMOTE TRADE WITH MOST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 00707 290855Z

THE ROC." HOWEVER, MCINNES REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID THAT IT IS

UNREALISTIC TO THINK THAT MULDOON WILL CHANGE THE STATUS QUO AND "WARNED" THAT VISA APPLICATIONS FOR ROC BUSINESSMEN WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED THROUGH THE NEW ZEALAND CONSULATE IN HONG KONG.

3. COMMENT: WHILE NEITHER OF THE ABOVE ITEMS CONTAINS MUCH SUBSTANCE TO SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT NEW ZEALAND AND THE ROC WILL STRENGTHEN UNOFFICIAL RELATIONS, THEIR APPEARANCE IS REMINISCENT OF ARTICLES THAT APPEARED IN THE PRESS A FEW MONTHS AGO ON ROC/TURKISH RELATIONS AND WHICH WERE FOLLOWED BY AN UNPUBLICIZED VISIT BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YANG HSI-KUN TO TURKEY.

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